

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

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TO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: SANKEI POLL ON APPOINTMENT OF LADY MINISTER TO UN

1. FEBRUARY 24 DAILY "SANKEI SHIMBUN" REPORTED ON ITS 2/20 PHONE SURVEY OF TOKYO-OSAKA AREA RESIDENTS RE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF INT'L CHRISTIAN UNIV. ASSOC. PROF. SADAKO OGATA AS JAPAN'S FIRST LADY MINISTER. FOUND 79 PERCENT HAD HEARD OF APPOINTMENT. SECOND QUESTION SUMMARIZED NEWS STORY AND ASKED FOR REACTIONS. OF TOTAL SAMPLE, 55 PERCENT WERE "DELIGHTED" (WOMEN 65 PERCENT, MEN 43 PERCENT), FIVE PERCENT WERE "HAPPY" (MEN EIGHT PERCENT, WOMEN THREE PERCENT) AND TEN PERCENT WERE "APPALLED" (MEN AND WOMEN SAME), FIVE PERCENT "CONCERNED" (LITTLE SEX DIFFERENCE) AND 18 PERCENT "NOT INTERESTED" (MEN 27 PERCENT, WOMEN 11 PERCENT).

2. ON BROADER QUESTION OF FUTURE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN DIPLOMATS TO AMBASSADORIAL OR MINISTERIAL POSITIONS, 50 PERCENT WOULD "GREATLY WELCOME" THIS AND 27 PERCENT FAVORED IT. SIXTEEN PERCENT DOUBTED WOMEN HAVE ABILITY FOR IT, AND THREE PERCENT SAID "DON'T WELCOME IT."

3. ASKED ALSO WHETHER THEY THOUGHT JAPAN MIGHT AGAIN HAVE WOMAN CABINET MINISTER IN NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, 23 PERCENT SAID YES AND 41 PERCENT NO. THIRTY PERCENT SAID WOMAN CABINET MINISTER IS UNCLASSIFIED

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NEEDED, AND 29 PERCENT DID NOT THINK SO.

4. ALMOST TWO THIRDS THOUGHT INT'L WOMEN'S YAR HAD SERVED TO RAISE WOMEN'S SOCIAL STATUS, WHILE 30 PERCENT SAW LITTLE OR NO SUCH EFFECT FROM IWY.

5. FOR PAST YEAR, MRS. OGATA HAS COMMUTED BETWEEN NEW YORK, WHERE HER HUSBAND IS WITH BANK OF JAPAN BRANCH AND WHERE SHE HAS ENGAGED IN IWY ACTIVITY, AND TOKYO, WHERE SHE IS LONG-TIME ACQUAINTANCE OF DPAO AND OTHER MISSION OFFICERS. SHE HAS JOINED ACTIVELY IN USIS PROGRAMS AS WELL.
MILLER

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